

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Fact Sheet for General Permit No. 02MA

Discharges from Marinas

This general permit has been developed to address a variety of discharges associated with marinas and independent boat maintenance facilities. Both federal and State regulations require discharge permits for most of these facilities. Because the discharges from most marinas are similar and can be controlled by almost identical permit conditions, this class of discharges is appropriate for coverage under a general permit.

Some marinas have registered under the Department's general permit for storm water associated with industrial activities (97SW). That permit does not include the provisions required to authorize surface water discharges resulting from boat washing and other potential marina discharges, and should not be used if any non-storm water is discharged from the facility.

This permit authorizes the discharge of boat and equipment wash water, storm water, noncontact cooling water, condensate, blasting and painting, and treated bilge water. The permit requires that the wastewater and storm water be subject to the best available treatment or pollution prevention technology.

For marinas that wash, paint, and maintain boats in open areas, the best available treatment must be determined on a site-by-site basis. It will usually involve the use of management practices such as straw dams and filter cloths, although in other cases settling basins or filters may be needed. The permit also requires the development of a storm water pollution prevention plan to limit pollution potential at these sites by minimizing exposure of pollutants to storm water runoff. Where chlorinated water is used for cooling, the water will have to be dechlorinated prior to discharge. Facilities that treat bilge water may use oil water separators.

A copy of the general permit is available to any person who desires to review the details of its terms and conditions. A copy may be obtained from the Wastewater Permits Program, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland 21230. The phone number is 410-537-3634, and you may reach us via e-mail: pallen@mde.state.md.us.

